



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

March 15, 2004

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN230-4-2

SUBJECT: EOP - FEDERAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Purpose: To provide information on Federal Women's History Month

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

In 1978 the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration. They chose the week of March 8 to make International Women's Day the focal point of the observance. The activities that were held met with enthusiastic response, and within a few years dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week.

Over the years word spread rapidly across the nation, and departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

In 1987, the National Women's History Project (NWHF) petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

The theme for March 2004:

"Women Inspiring Hope & Possibility"

In celebrating National Women's History Month, we honor all women who have touched this nation's history and our own personal history, women who contribute to the people and ideals of this great country. This year, as they strive to do every year, the NWHF has selected women exemplary of the many women who inspire us. To find out whom these women are go to:
<http://www.nwhf.org>.

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In keeping with the theme of "Women Inspiring Hope & Possibility" we are going to have a celebration on March 25, 2003 in the State Office. We will celebrate with a luncheon and program that will uplift and inspire NRCS employees.

I invite you to continue to work during the coming year on creating and implementing a proactive program that will benefit and educate not just women, but all employees to the legacy of our past, and also the potential for our future. Working together we can create a program that will promote the policies of USDA and provide an equitable working environment for all employees.

If you have any questions or comments please call Mary Morgan, Federal Women's Program Manager, at 317-290-3200 x346. Also please visit our website at:
www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/Civil_Rights

/s/

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State Conservationist